63:Simmons et al G-5 (1941-1951) 1954
M1 Middle East
IRAQ MH1

As in other countries, all gradations in housing, between the palatial homes of the wealthy and the congested hovels of the poor, are found in the cities. Brick and cement are the usual building materials, although stone is widely used in Mosul and other towns in the north. In Baghdad, Arabic and Turkish styles of architecture predominate in the older sections of the city; modern villas, in the newer residential developments. Basra is a composite of 3 townships: Basra City, a typical Arab town; Ashar, the business community; and Margil, the new town and port center. In the oil field areas, housing estates are maintained by the operating companies for the benefit of their workers.

ENVIRONMENT AND SANITATION

Water Supplies

Water supplies are reasonably plentiful in the inhabited portions of the country. In the highland areas of the north and the northeast, water is obtained from streams, springs or wells, but in the alluvial plains, where the rainfall rarely exceeds 2 to 6 inches, it is taken entirely from rivers, canals, lakes or wells. Water is scarce in the desert regions but is available in some localities from waterholes, dug in dried stream beds, or from occasional permanent deep wells. The well waters in the mountain districts are sometimes highly mineralized, while shallow well supplies in the lower delta are generally brackish.

The domestic water supplies are treated before distribution in the larger cities and towns, but throughout rural Iraq they are unprotected and frequently polluted. The municipal water supply for the city of Baghdad is pumped from the Tigris River at 4 stations—3 on the left bank and 1 on the right. The entire supply is treated by sedimentation and chlorination, while filtration plants are also operated in connection with the pumping stations at Karrada and Sarrifiya, on the left bank. It is piped to individual service connections in all sections